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[REDACTED]

**Talking Points for the DCI
(17 October 1983)**

The continued sniping at US Marine positions around Beirut International Airport probably is not the result of coordinated efforts by any of the major combatants.

[REDACTED]

Beside the evident anti-US motivation behind the incidents, radical factions may be trying to to prevent the airport area from being the venue of the reconciliation conference.

- Attacks on Lebanese Army positions on the northern perimeter of the airport have also increased. [REDACTED]

Desultory fighting continues along the Alayh ridgeline between the Lebanese Army and Druze/Palestinian forces.

- The Army is trying to gain control of Druze towns behind its lines and deny the use of the roads in the Kayfun/Baysur area to the opposition.
- The major Palestinian force in the area appears to be the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. [REDACTED]


The Lebanese Forces Christian militia continue to clash with the Druze militia in the Kharrub area south of Damur/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

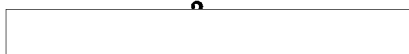


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A venue has still not been selected for the national reconciliation conference. Former President Franjiyah has apparently agreed, however, to drop his demand that the Lebanese/Israeli withdrawal agreement be abrogated before he attended the conference.

-- According to press reports, the reconciliation conference--scheduled to start on Thursday--may be delayed several days if a meeting site is not agreed upon by tomorrow. 

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SUBJECT: Talking Points for the DCI

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